**F Japanese culture**

**Popular singers**

**(1)Ayumi Hamasaki**

She is the most famous female singer in Japan. Her name is Ayumi hamasaki. Do you know her? She is from Fukuoka Prefecture, our prefecture. Her nick-name is “Ayu”, and she is called “The diva of Heisei Era”. Ayu held concerts in foreign countries like China and Taiwan. She is the first singer that she got all the grand prizes of Japanese songs. Moreover, she is very fashionable. Therefore, she is a dream of Japanese high school girls. Her songs are all about love. That is also why high school students love her.

**(2)Kumi Koda**

She is the second famous Japanese female singer. Do you know her? Her name is Kumi Koda. Her nick-name is “Kuchan” or “Kutan”. In last two years, she received the prize of song sold most. She created a unique style meaning “erotic and cool”. Her stage dresses stress her nice body. She is also a dream of Japanese high school girls.

Who singer do you like? Ayumi Hamasaki or Kumi Koda?

**Comedians**

In Japan right now, there are a large number of entertainers and they are very popular especially among the younger generation. This boom is called “Owarai boom (The boom of comedians) ”. Now, we will introduce some of the comedians known to everyone in Japan.

Their names are Taka and Toshi. The man on the left is Taka, and the one on the right side is Toshi. Taka often says “Are you westernized?” which is the popular phrase among us. This phrase has the nuance meaning “Don’t behave as if you were a Westerner.” The way they show the differences between Western culture and Japanese culture make us laugh.

Lastly Taka always wears this red T-shirt printed with a pretty lion picture on it , which is his lucky charm.

His name is Hossyan. As you see, he is a kind of cute man because of his nice smile. All of his jokes are very funny.

**Japanese comics**

I will introduce to you the Japanese comics. The most popular Japanese comic for boys is “ONE PIECE”. This is so popular that it is sold all over the world. This edition is for Japanese. This is for European.

He is the main character of this comic. His name is “Ruffy”. He has a special power to stretch his bodies. He travels around the space to become the king of pirates with this ability.

The most popular Japanese comic for girls is “ HANAYORI DANGO”. That means “boys are better than flowers” in English. The main characters are this boy, Tsukasa and this girl, Tsukushi. It is a love story between Tsukasa, a rich boy and Tsukushi, a poor girl.

**The latest fashion**

Now, I’ll introduce the latest fashion in Japan. Please look at the picture. SLY is well-known for its jeans. If you put it on, you seem to be slender in a moment. That’s why many people like their jeans. CECIL MacBEE is one of the most famous fashion brands among teenagers. In general, CECIL MAcBEE sells clothes that are hip and trendy. It also has a great selection of party dresses. Recently, UNIQLO has become more and more popular. UNIQLO designs, manufactures, markets and sells casual wears so that it can be worn by anyone, anytime. UNIQLO provides people everywhere with what they need in order to create their own style.

**Movie actors and actresses**

His name is Kimura Takuya. He is the very man that every Japanese woman thinks cool. Her name is Sawajiri Erika. She is the woman that Japanese men feel find very cute. He is Hankachi Oji. He is a baseball player whose real name is Yuki Saito. He is called “Hankachi Ouji” since he wiped off his sweat with his blue handkerchief in the Koushien Stadium during the All-National Inter-high school baseball Championship. “Hankachi Ouji” means Prince of the handkerchief. Now he plays baseball at Waseda University now and he is a young baseball player with much promise. He is Hanikami Ouji. He is 18 years old and a golfer whose real name is Ryo Ishikawa. He is called “Hanikami Ouji” because he is very shy and his shy smile is so cute. “Hanikami Ouji” means Prince of shyness. He got the first prize at many tournaments in spite of his young age last year and he is also a promising young golfer.